

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 13 & 16, 2025

Blessings Are Cursed; Curses Are Blessed

Opening Hymn 803, "Day by Day"

Order of Service..... Setting Two, Page 172

Prayer of the Day: O God of power and might, you know that we live in the midst of many great dangers, and in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Give us strength and protection to support us in all peril, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (*In Hymnal*) Psalm 1

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 179

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *The Lord will watch over your coming and */ going both now and for */ evermore.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 576, "Amazing Grace"

SERMON..... "What Kind of Tree Are You?" Jeremiah 17:5-8

Offering Hymn 750 v. 2, "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Nicene Creed Pages 180-181

Communion Liturgy Page 183

Communion Hymn (*Sunday – Sung by Adult Choir*)..... 662, "Draw Near"

Closing Liturgy Page 187

Closing Hymn 824 vv. 1 & 3, "This Is the Threefold Truth"

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-8

A blessed life is not connected to outward circumstances like health or wealth. Rather, the one who is blessed is the one who has been given the gift of faith, whose trust is in the LORD.

This is what the Lord says. Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind, who seeks his strength from human flesh, and who turns his heart away from the Lord. He will be like a juniper bush in the wasteland. He will not see good things when they come. He lives in a dry place in the wilderness, in a salty land where no one lives.

But blessed is anyone who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by water. It sends out its roots to the stream. It does not fear the heat when it comes. Its leaves will remain green. It is not concerned about a time of drought. It does not stop producing fruit.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

Paul had some infirmity he initially viewed as a weakness. He came to see it as a blessing as it forced him to rely on God's strength.

I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. And he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me. That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then am I strong.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

In one of his most famous sermons Jesus teaches that the good things we seek are found in places we would least expect.

He went down with them and stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples and a large number of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, as well as from the coastal area of Tyre and Sidon. These people came to listen to him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits were also cured. The whole crowd kept trying to touch him, because power was going out from him and healing them all.

He lifted up his eyes to his disciples and said: Blessed are you who are poor, because yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, because you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh. Blessed are you whenever people hate you, and whenever they exclude and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy because of this: Your reward is great in heaven! The fact is, their fathers constantly did the same things to the prophets."

But woe to you who are rich, because you are receiving your comfort now. Woe to you who are well fed now, because you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, because you will be mourning and weeping. Woe to you when all people speak well of you, because that is how their fathers constantly treated the false prophets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION: Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK: Don Koch/Doug Schulz; next Sunday: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz

ORGANISTS: The **March** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

2025 – 2026 SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY! Enrollment for all classes (4K-8) for the 2025 – 2026 school year is now underway. Children must be 4-years-old by September 1, 2025, to enroll in our 4K program. 4K classes run five days per week (Monday-Friday) with two options—full days (8:05 AM – 3:05 PM) -or- half days (8:05 AM – Noon). Children must be 5-years-old by September 1, 2025, to enroll in our 5K program. 5K classes meet full days, five days per week. All registrations are being done ONLINE ONLY through our new automated registration system—DreamClass. Please speak with Mr. Lorge or Debbi Foulkes for more information if you know of family, friends, or neighbors who may be interested in having a child join our school family next year so we can supply them with the appropriate registration information.

CHILI/BINGO/DONUTS! The PTL will be hosting their second annual chili luncheon & bingo event next **Sunday, February 23, 2025**, immediately following our 9:00 AM worship service. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board for food items which are needed for the chili luncheon. Please look at it and sign up for what you may be willing to donate. Food donations will need to be here by **February 19!**

For those who plan on playing Bingo, we would ask that you consider bringing along a Bingo prize somewhere in the \$5.00 - \$10.00 range. While this isn't mandatory to participate, as PTL is supplying some Bingo prizes, we are asking for some additional prizes as the more we have, the longer we can play! Let's mingle and BINGO!

EVERYONE OUTREACH: The time is fast approaching for the *Everyone Outreach* program which our congregation is hosting. *Everyone Outreach* is designed to help our congregation build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is thinking about and participating in outreach. There is no cost to attend! It is scheduled for **March 1, 2025, from 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM.** (Lunch will be provided). If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board. We would like to have as much participation from our members as possible! Any questions about this program may be directed to **Scott Mittelstadt.**

LENTEN SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING: The Lenten Season will begin on **Wednesday, March 5.** Ash Wednesday communion worship services will be held at **3:15 PM** and **7:00 PM.** Thereafter, Lenten worship services will be held each Wednesday at both **3:15 PM** and **7:00 PM.** Please also remember that during the Lenten Season there are **NO** Thursday evening worship services held.

LUTHER PREP – SACRED SPRING CONCERT: Everyone is invited to Luther Preparatory School's Sacred Spring Concert in Watertown, Wisconsin. This concert is scheduled for **Sunday, March 9, at 2:00 PM.** The concert will take place in the Luther Prep gymnasium. Luther Prep is located at 1300 Western Avenue in Watertown.

LENT BY CANDLELIGHT: All women of our congregation are invited to join St. Paul's, Neosho, and Bethany Lutheran Church, Hustisford, for an afternoon of being in the Word, music, and fellowship to prepare your hearts for Christ's sacrifice on the cross. This event will take place on **Sunday, March 16, at 2:00 PM** in the St. Paul, Neosho, fellowship hall. Please **RSVP** to Sam Kesting (by calling or texting) to **(920) 625-2021** or to Rachel Wisniewski at **(920) 860-1583.**

WE THANK the Adult Choir for enriching our Sunday morning service with their voices!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 18; Sunday: 117

Offerings: \$4,313.60

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,355.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$80.00; Church Refurbishment: \$300.00;
St. Matthew's Choir: \$5.00

Memorials: In Memory of Jerome Bilgrien: \$300.00 *(Church Refrubishment)*



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plates located on the tables at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

Thursday: Worship Service7:00 PM
Adult Choir.....8:00 PM
Scrip Orders Due

Friday: **NO SCHOOL – WLA A-Team Basketball Tournament**

Sunday: Worship Service9:00 AM
Chili Luncheon (w/BINGO) – Immediately following service



Remember to pray for our shut-ins:

Irmgard Meyer – c/o Bonnie Borden, N5474 Astor Rd., Iron Ridge

Janice Schultz – Wellington Place at Hartford, 615 Hilldale Dr.,
Hartford

Virginia Wendorff – At Home – 420 Short Street, Mayville

Anna Zwygart – At Home – 1526 Ridgewood Dr., West Bend